



OLC 79-1371/1

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MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

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FROM

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Chief, Legislation Division

SUBJECT

:

Communications Act of 1979

1. Chairman Harley O. Staggers (D., W. Va.), House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, has requested CIA's views on H.R. 3333 which would amend the Communications Act of 1934. The Bill, along with S.611 and S.622, is attached for your consideration and comment. Also attached is a section-by-section analysis of H.R. 3333. Although hearings were held on similar legislation (H.R. 13015 and S.2887) in the last Congress, the legislation did not go anywhere.

2. Your attention is specifically directed to Title VII of H.R. 3333 which establishes a National Telecommunications Agency (NTA). Section 704(7) would empower the NTA to "assist in the development and operation of telecommunications systems designed for national security purposes". An exception for CIA is necessary in that the new agency would be granted heretofore denied access to CIA communications systems.

3. Addresses are also requested to focus your attention on section 435 of H.R. 3333 which would permit a foreign government to operate mobile radio stations up to 30 miles from their embassy or legation in accordance with prescribed Presidential regulations. This is conditioned upon granting the United States a reciprocal privilege.

4. The Communications Subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce is presently holding hearings on H.R. 3333 from 14 May - 29 June. The Subcommittee on Communications of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation will hold hearings on S.611 and S.622 on 16 May and 5-19 June. CIA has not been asked to testify in either the House or Senate hearings, nor do we intend to offer to do so.

79-1303

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